

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicants have overcome the rejection by amending claim 4 to recite that “paper of additional sizes may be inserted in the printer.” Claim 4 no longer recites that “paper of any size” may be inserted into the printer and thus no longer “conflicts” with claim 1 as asserted by the Examiner. This amendment does not introduce new matter in that it is more restrictive than the original claim language. Claims 5 and 6 were only rejected due to their dependency on claim 4. Accordingly, claims 4-6 are allowable.

Claims 1-3 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Fischer (U.S. Patent No. 6,762,852) in view of Yu (U.S. Patent No. 6,988,839). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have filed herewith a certified translation of Japanese Patent Application No. JP2000-292740, filed on September 26, 2000, from which this application claims priority. Consequently, Yu, filed on March 30, 2001, is predated by applicants’ priority document and does not qualify as prior art. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 8-11 are allowable based at least on the Examiner’s admission that Fischer fails to disclose all of the features recited in independent claims 1, 8 and 10.

Claim 7 stands rejected on 35 USC 103(a) on Fischer in view of Shima (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,909). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Initially, applicants submit that the Yu reference appears to have been inadvertently omitted from the rejection. Applicants believe that the Examiner intended to base the rejection on Fischer in view of Yu and in further view of Shima. Applicants believe that this is true because Shima was only cited as disclosing the additional features recited in claim 7, which depends from claim 1, and the Examiner has conceded that Fischer does not disclose all of the features recited in claim 1. Accordingly, because Yu does not qualify as prior art, and because Shima fails to overcome the deficiencies of Fischer, claim 7 is allowable due at least to its dependency.

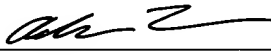
Applicants solicit an early action allowing the claims.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No.

325772026900.

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Respectfully submitted,

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